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1778, at Kaskaskia, he will find it necessary to examine the correspondence and instructions which form a large part of the present volume. In the future publications of the Illinois Historical Society, there may come information that will enable us plausibly to explain Clark's *accidental* meeting on the Ohio with the party of hunters from Kaskaskia. The leader of the "Long Knives" was too brave to be imprudent. How far had he, through Bentley and others, made smooth his way? It is seriously to be hoped that some day we shall know all the participants in Clark's brilliant campaign. Its grandeur grows with added details.

A History of the Western Boundary of the Louisiana Purchase (1819-1841). By Thomas Maitland Marshall, Ph.D. University of California Press, Berkeley, 1914. Pp. 266.

By whatever name one chooses to call this study it principally deals with the secession from Mexico of her province of Texas, and the assistance rendered by the United States Government and the American people to rebellious citizens of Mexico. Stated differently this useful essay carefully describes the first blot on our national escutcheon. The political morality of the acts which led Americans to adhere to the insurgent citizens of Mexico and give them assistance in their revolt is hardly a subject for debate, and the author does not formally discuss it.

In shaping the plans which dismembered Mexico, President Jackson was one of the most capable architects and certainly the most eminent. From some of the keenest and the most suspicious of his contemporaries he contrived to conceal his real sentiments, but time has lifted the shroud from more than one of his confidential communications. The hero of New Orleans stands revealed very much in the character of a conspirator. To the publishers of the series of "True" biographies we commend an appropriate theme, viz, "The True Andrew Jackson." The hero of the Hermitage died without confessing to Parton.

On page 13 Dr. Marshall says: "The idea that the Louisiana Purchase extended to the Rio Grande became a certainty with Jefferson early in 1804." The author of the Declaration had made a far greater discovery just a little earlier than 1804. In fact, some time before 1803 he became convinced that the

blessings promised by its Preamble could not be secured by the Constitution under his theory of strict construction. Another statesman of the Jeffersonian school, perhaps the narrowest of all the Presidents, John Tyler, was likewise persuaded that this instrument, which to Federalists and Whigs had discoursed sweet music, to strict construction Democrats gave forth the harshest sounds. For purposes of expansion at least, these statesmen discovered that the Constitution, as they had understood it, was unequal to the exigencies of government. This was not the message which Laussat had sent to Claiborne and Wilkinson.

When Burr was engaged in his project in the Southwest, Gen. Wilkinson had offered to protect from invasion the provinces of his Catholic Majesty for the modest sum of \$300,000, an amount which Wilkinson could himself have earned in the short space of 200 years. It is likely that for a small part of that sum, he could have disarmed even Burr's ambition. Gallatin, a statesman of greater ability and higher ethical principles than most of those who acted with Jefferson, opposed the policy adopted toward Spain. Perhaps he attached some weight to the fact that the Spaniards had settled Santa Fé in 1582, more than 230 years before Anglo-Americans had established themselves on the coast of the Gulf. He knew the flimsy texture of the American claim to Texas.

In 1815, at New Orleans, Capt. Perry declared that a thousand men were ready to invade Texas. This was an enterprise that appealed with peculiar force to the freebooters of Barataria. It was not strange that the pirate, Jean Lafitte, participated in the adventure, and for a time established himself on Galveston Island. For the purpose of imposing order on the pirates the United States regarded that region as belonging to Spain, but for other purposes it belonged to the United States, which by the Treaty of 1819 surrendered it to Spain, receiving in return the two Floridas and also a claim to the country of Oregon. John Quincy Adams, the last member of Monroe's Cabinet to agree to this arrangement, was long regarded by Southern prejudice as the chief promoter of that transaction. The great Henry Clay, whose countrymen were destined to bring *graft* to a degree of perfection seldom equalled in the outside world, believed that Luis de Onís, the representative of Spain, had a pecuniary

interest in promoting the treaty by which we acquired the Floridas.

This was the era of the Forsyths, who seem to have brought American diplomacy to its low water mark. Kings could be insulted, especially feeble kings, with impunity. Keeping step to the same sound, but belonging to a later period, was Joel R. Poinsett, our Minister to Mexico. A York rite Mason, he assisted in organizing lodges in that Republic. For his activity he was sharply criticised by those brothers of "the mystic tie" who preferred the Scottish rite. In the variegated history of Mexico, *Yorkinos* and *Escoceses* have added elements of new confusion. He it was who declared that if the border Indians were not subdued, it would be necessary for the United States to pursue and chastise them "even under the walls of Mexico."

The accession of Jackson confirmed the growing sentiment in favor of acquiring Texas. So successfully was his eagerness repressed that it was popularly believed he was opposed to the project. Butler wrote to that virtuous statesman delicately hinting at the bribery of a Mexican official. It is only just to add that Jackson gave no encouragement to this baseness. But he did not, as he should have done, immediately recall him, though ultimately he was forced to. Butler wrote frequently, and wrote not only of Texas but of California.

Dr. Marshall's study is worthy of careful examination and is an excellent narrative of the subject treated. Perhaps a little condensation of certain sections would tend to make the outline of his story a trifle more clear. It plainly shows the efficient character of the historical work done at the University of California.

Nathan Hale, 1776, Biography and Memorials. By Henry Phelps Johnston: New Haven, Yale University Press; London, Humphrey Milford; Oxford University Press, 1914. Pp. 296.

Three interesting chapters inform the reader of the ancestral background, the youth, and the college life of Nathan Hale, a brave but unfortunate patriot. We are made clearly to see the social and academic forces which, during his residence at Yale College, fashioned one of the noblest characters of the War for Independence.